

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A method of ~~treating insulin resistance~~~~altering an insulin-associated parameter~~ in a subject, said method comprising administering to said subject [[a]] ghrelin or ~~ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof; and ~~[[an]]-unacylated ghrelin or unacylated ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said method comprises administering to said subject a composition comprising [[a]] ghrelin or ~~ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof; and ~~[[an]] unacylated ghrelin or unacylated ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

4. – 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[7]] 1, wherein said insulin resistance is associated with obesity.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said obesity is associated with reduced growth hormone level, activity, or both.

10. – 11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[7]] 1, wherein said subject has type II diabetes.

13. – 14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said administration of said ghrelin or ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof~~ and said unacylated ghrelin or unacylated ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof~~ is sequential.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said administration of said ghrelin or ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof~~ and said unacylated ghrelin or unacylated ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof~~ is simultaneous.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ghrelin comprises an amino acid sequence as set forth in ~~substantially identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 and a fragment thereof.~~

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said unacylated ghrelin comprises an amino acid sequence as set forth in ~~substantially identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2 and a fragment thereof.~~

20. – 24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ghrelin or ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof~~ and said unacylated ghrelin or unacylated ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof~~ is administered through a route selected from the group consisting of intravenous, oral, transdermal, subcutaneous, mucosal, intramuscular, intranasal, intrapulmonary, parenteral, intrarectal and topical.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ghrelin or ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof~~ is administered at a dose of about 1  $\mu\text{g/kg}$ .

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said unacylated ghrelin or unacylated ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof~~ is administered at a dose of about 1  $\mu\text{g/kg}$ .

28. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said subject is a mammal.

29. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said subject is human.

30. – 45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[45]]~~ 2, wherein said method is for reducing~~preventing or treating~~ insulin resistance in said subject.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein said insulin resistance is associated with obesity.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein said obesity is associated with reduced growth hormone level, activity, or both.

49. – 50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[50]]~~ 46, wherein said subject has diabetes~~is selected from the group consisting of type I diabetes and type II diabetes~~.

52. – 86. (Canceled)

87. (Currently amended) A method for lowering~~altering~~ glucose level in a subject, said method comprising administering to said subject ~~[[a]]~~ ghrelin or ghrelin having one or more

conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof~~, in combination with ~~[[an]]~~ unacylated ghrelin or unacylated ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof~~.

88. (Currently amended) The method of claim 87, wherein said method comprises administering to said subject a composition comprising ~~[[a]]~~ ghrelin or ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof~~, and ~~[[an]]~~ unacylated ghrelin or unacylated ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof~~.

89. (Canceled)

90. (Currently amended) The method of claim 87, wherein said administration of said ghrelin or ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof~~ and said unacylated ghrelin or unacylated ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof~~ is sequential.

91. (Currently amended) The method of claim 87, wherein said administration of said ghrelin or ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof~~ and said unacylated ghrelin or unacylated ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof~~ is simultaneous.

92. (Currently amended) The method of claim 87, wherein said ghrelin comprises an amino acid sequence as set forth in ~~substantially identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 and a fragment thereof.~~

93. (Currently amended) The method of claim 87, wherein said unacylated ghrelin comprises an amino acid sequence as set forth in ~~substantially identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2 and a fragment thereof.~~

94. (Currently amended) The method of claim 87, wherein said ghrelin or ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof~~ and said unacylated ghrelin or unacylated ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof~~ is administered through a route selected from the group consisting of intravenous, oral,

transdermal, subcutaneous, mucosal, intramuscular, intranasal, intrapulmonary, parenteral, intrarectal and topical.

95. (Currently amended) The method of claim 87, wherein said ghrelin or ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof~~ is administered at a dose of about 1  $\mu\text{g/kg}$ .

96. (Currently amended) The method of claim 87, wherein said unacylated ghrelin or unacylated ghrelin having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions~~analog thereof~~ is administered at a dose of about 1  $\mu\text{g/kg}$ .